

CLAIMS:

- 1        1.     A network addressable device in a communications network for  
2           printing a document for a network user, comprising:  
3           (a)    a global printer array linked with the communications network;  
4           and  
5           (b)    an assessor linked with the global printer array and the network  
6           user, the assessor implementing a computer program code for  
7           selecting a localized printer from the global printer array.
  
- 1        2.     The network addressable device according to claim 1 wherein the  
2           assessor receives network user parameters from the network user  
3           through the communications network.
  
- 1        3.     The network addressable device according to claim 1 wherein the  
2           assessor establishes a localized zone of printer candidates, the  
3           localized printer selected from the localized zone.
  
- 1        4.     The network addressable device according to claim 1 wherein the  
2           network addressable device further includes a repository for storing  
3           the information used for printing.
  
- 1        5.     In a computer system, computer program code on computer readable  
2           media for printing a document for a network user, the computer  
3           program code comprising:  
4           (a)    a first computer program code for receiving network user  
5           parameters via a network addressable device;  
6           (b)    a second computer program code for linking the network  
7           addressable device with a global printer array;  
8           (c)    a third computer program code for selecting a localized printer  
9           from the global printer array;

- 10 (d) a fourth computer program code for determining the availability  
11 of the localized printer with respect to the network user  
12 parameters; and  
13 (e) a fifth computer program code for spooling the localized printer.
- 1 6. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the third  
2 computer program code includes:  
3 (a) a computer program code for establishing a localized zone of  
4 printer candidates; and  
5 (b) a computer program code for designating the printer candidate  
6 at a minimum distance from the localized zone to the network  
7 user as the localized printer.
- 1 7. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fourth  
2 computer program code includes a computer program code for  
3 determining whether the localized printer satisfies printer parameters  
4 of the network user.
- 1 8. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fourth  
2 computer program code further includes a computer program code for  
3 determining cost expectations of the network user.
- 1 9. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fourth  
2 computer program code further includes a computer program code for  
3 determining time expectations of the network user.
- 1 10. The computer program code according to claim 5 wherein the fifth  
2 computer program code includes a computer program code for  
3 displaying the status of the localized printer.
- 1 11. In a communications network environment, a method for printing a  
2 document for a network user, comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) receiving network user parameters via a network addressable
- 4 device;
- 5 (b) selecting a localized printer from a global printer array of the
- 6 network addressable device with respect to the network user
- 7 parameters;
- 8 (c) determining availability of the selected localized printer; and
- 9 (d) engaging the localized printer.

1 12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving  
2 network user parameters includes the step of receiving network user  
3 parameters from an Internet communications network.

1 13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the step of receiving  
2 network user parameters includes the step of receiving network user  
3 parameters from a browser.

1 14. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving  
2 network user parameters includes the step of receiving network user  
3 parameters from an intranet communications network.

1 15. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a  
2 localized printer includes the steps of:  
3 (a) establishing a localized zone of printer candidates; and  
4 (b) designating a printer candidate with a minimum distance from  
5 the localized zone to the network user as the localized printer.

1 16. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a  
2 localized printer includes the step of determining whether the localized  
3 printer satisfies printer parameters of the network user.

1 17. The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of  
2 displaying status of the localized printer.

1 18. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a  
2 localized printer includes the step of determining time expectations  
3 associated with the localized printer.

1 19. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of selecting a  
2 localized printer includes the step of determining costs associated  
3 with the localized printer.

1 20. The method according to claim 11 wherein step of selecting a  
2 localized printer includes the step of asking whether the network user  
3 wishes to wait if the localized printer is unavailable.  
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